

Return to

F. W. EVANS

Mt. Lebanon,

Columbia County, - - N. Y.

After Six Days.



Levi Shaw,
Windsor, Beome Co.
N.Y.



10,327-L

Mt. Lebanon, Sep. 29th 1849.

Beloved Br Levi,

Your mournful let-
ter of the 23^d. int. received. I hope you
sleep, ^{now} that is indispensibly requisite,
without sleep, nothing else would a-
vail. Eat and sleep, and live to do
good and be good.

I am sorry for the conditions you
and I have created, and, ^{of} which we are
so grievously afflicted. I can but
hope that soon a silver lining
will be seen to the cloud that now
oppresses us. I feel an assurance
that we shall be helped with
a little help.

About the Chicago property, you
and I see quite differently.

Both are sure that we see aright.
Yet, one of us must be mistaken.

As I see the matter, when the
business was divided, your por-

²⁴ Time was the Windsor & Pa. property
All the rest belonged to the North
Family, and it was all in my hands.

The Pine Knobel Lot was sold and the
proceeds came to me. The Mich. lands
I sold (because I was determined to
sell) ^{I received the proceeds.} And the Chicago Lots I put
into a lawyer's hands to sell. The
first sale was made, and I let the
proceeds all go into your hands
because of the trouble & expense you
had been at already & the expense
that was certain, on account of the
miserable petti-bogger that had
a lawsuit pending for so long a
time, and which we did not
know how it would terminate.

Finally, the title was invested in
Benjamin. When sold, it came into
my hands as belonging to the Family
business. You imbibed the idea,
that because I let the others all
go into your hands the second

sale should also go to you. The Elders had a meeting and the unanimous decision was not to have that go to Windsor. I was much, as you had not ^{any} more claim upon the Chicago property, than you had upon the Mich. lands, & yet, for the reasons assigned on account of the size, I gave up the entire first sale, I ^{am} unable to see why I have not acted just & liberal to ^{me} you.

You seem to think the Family ought to pay the debts. But, the very object of your going to Windsor was to have you pay the debts with the business & the sale of the lands there & in Pa.!!

Have you not acted upon the principle of buying lands, putting up expensive buildings; & making permanent improvements; rather than of selling

off and liquidating the debts with
 the proceeds? Benjamin thinks
 \$20,000 could easily be absorbed
 in building up and expanding
 the business ^{at Windsor.} As yet, have you
 sold any of the property to pay debts?

After the fire, if you had told me
 that the Family must ^{sell land to} pay the debts, I
 should have proposed to drop every
 thing where it would. To have stop-
 ped all expenses. Dismissed
 the men, sold the logs, sold the
 teams & tools at auction, all
 that could have been sold without loss.

If the Family pay the debts, by the sale
 of Chicago & other real estate like
 the Rice Place; what then? Why
 then the Family ^{have got} better
 the debts to recover ^{at Windsor} the property
 to dispose of, too. But if the
 debts are paid by sale of the
 property at once, the Family are

5^c clear of both debts & property

Do not think the simple direct process?
If the property does not pay the debts, is
not the Family responsible for what
remains unpaid? This being so,
why have ^{we} not a right to a voice in
the whole business?

And if sales are forced & things
succeeded to close up within a year,
is not that result probable?

If you had been as determined to
sell out as I was to sell the Miles lands,
would you not have ^{saved} ~~some~~ the five
dollars or half the success ~~that~~ has
cost us?

And now, have ^{we} not made mistakes
and committed blunders enough?

Buying the Mich. Loan? The
Pa. Promised land & Egypt land,
& Big Pond lot.
And running in debt, paying so
for it on the borrowed money
Buying the Chicago Lots, &c &c
In all these things, I blame

6
myself as much as I do you. I have
so far sympathised with you that
I have let you have your own way
in almost every case that has come
up. The consequence is, that by
far the largest share of sensual vices
upon me, and the vice ^{is} considered
to be a just judgment upon us.

As Matthew said, "In the things wherein
we have sinned in the same we
are punished." "In our patience
let us possess our souls in peace."

Let us be wise as serpents & harm-
less as doves. Serpents save the
dead at all hands. We must
keep our Faith as of more value
than all the things that perish with
the using. I do not want another
dollar to go to Windsor if it can
possibly ^{be} sweeted. In love

F. W. Evans.

5^c clear of debts & property

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F. W. Evans.

